

Pacific's music ambassadors

By Tech. Sgt.
Mark Munsey
Kukini Managing Editor

The moniker "Pacific Air Forces Band" doesn't do them justice. It implies they merely cover their major command based here at Hickam, playing the occasional retreat ceremony or recognition function.

But the 11-person unit hardly stands pat on island, and the Air Force is only a small part of their theater-wide audience.

Serving the largest MAJCOM area of responsibility in the Air Force as well as ambassadors in blue to the neighboring islands only begins to explain their significance to the Public Affairs triad, according to Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Ciuffo, PACAF band leader.

"We are regularly called to serve the Navy, Army, Marines and Coast Guard," Chief Ciuffo

said. "Just last week [we sent] a singer/guitarist to Admiral Fargo's quarters for a function, and in December we performed at Wheeler Army Airfield supporting Army and Marine families."

The band also supports the local travel economy while serving their client base, the chief said.

"We recently traveled to Kauai to perform for the Navy at their missile range and Maui to support port active duty and Air National Guard recruiting," Chief Ciuffo said.

Unlike other command bands, the small amount of musicians assigned means the team has to function as one organic group, he said. They can't put together a jazz group, plus a pop group and a separate concert band.

Necessity is the mother of invention. "The musicians have to be extremely flexible and tal-

ented," the chief added.

"It's not unusual for bandmen to spend 90-100 days on temporary duty assignment every year, and bands are now deploying in the AEF. Few have had more challenging or rewarding experiences than recently-arrived Senior Airman John Kukan."

"We were based out of Al Udeid, Qatar, but toured Balad and Tallil Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Bagram Afghanistan, and a Marine base in Djibouti, Africa," Airman Kukan said. "It gave me a new appreciation for the people in the military and a larger sense of pride being a part of the Air Force."

"The gigs in the desert were some of the best gigs I have played in my Air Force career," he added.

Even their command structure sets themselves apart from the other command-owned bands at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska and Yokota Air Base, Japan.

"The other two detachments have a captain in charge," he said. "We're the



Courtesy photo

Members of the PACAF band Hana Hou perform for some very enthusiastic dancers at the base child development center May 2, 2004.

only band unit in the Air Force with an enlisted member in charge—it's an awesome opportunity and responsibility."

It's an enlisted team that is once again about

to take it on the road.

"We'll be going to the island of Hawaii to give some more support to Air Force recruiting," Chief Ciuffo said. After that, I'm trying to get

our folks to Guam to support 13th Air Force."

For more information on the PACAF band, contact Chief Ciuffo at 448-4320.



Courtesy Photo

The Pacific Air Forces band performs before a capacity crowd in front of Freedom Tower May 21, 2004, as part of Operation Pacific Greeting.



Photo by Jerry Banks

A ukulele duel broke out between PACAF Band member Senior Airman Josh Byrd, right, and international recording star and ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro during the July 4 celebrations at Hickam Harbor. After the duo performed several tunes, Shimabukuro performed solo for another 45 minutes.

Hickam Heritage

Marilyn Khan
Civilian Personnel and Equal
Opportunity Branch chief
Pacific Air Forces



Photo by Mysti Bicoy

Marilyn Khan is joined by (from left) Craig Cumber, Air Force Civilian Personnel director and E.M. Bradley, Pacific Air Forces Civilian Personnel director, during a temporary duty from Hickam to John Hay Air Base, Philippines Feb 3, 1979.



Photo by Mysti Bicoy

From left Mrs. Khan briefs Angela Ard and Eddie Wroblinski, PACAF Civilian Personnel Office, during a staff meeting Monday.

Career highlights:

Feb 1962 - Started at Civilian Personnel Office at Hickam

May 1968 - Selected for three-year training program

May 1971 - Personnel Management Specialist

May 1973 - Equal Employment Opportunity Program branch chief

July 1975 - PACAF DP

personnel management specialist

March 1981 - Current position

In her own words -

"The 60s and 70s were dynamic times for civil rights, stressing equal pay and employment opportunities for minorities and women. Hickam's culturally

diverse workforce embraced the new movement, with managers expanding their views and taking action to create opportunities for women and minorities to advance.

"I am a product of upward mobility moving from a GS-3 to GS-14, which is attributable to caring supervisors who took the time to mentor me. I

proudly stand as a leader, learning from those before me and helping others be influential in the growth of others."

How Hickam has changed

"There have been great advances in the quality of life services with growth in child care facilities, family support centers and fitness and restaurant facilities.